

AI *[Signature]*
a second layer of a second conductivity type covering the top side of the first layer; and

a third layer situated on the bottom side of the first layer,
wherein the layers are diced into individual chips so that, in an internal area, each of the chips has at least one depression, and
wherein the depression is sawed.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels without prejudice original claims 1-15 and substitute claims 1-8, in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/02918, and adds new claims 9-16. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3), the Substitute Specification (including the Abstract, but without the claims) contains no new matter. The amendments reflected in the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are to conform the Specification and Abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules or to correct informalities. As required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3)(iii) and § 1.125(b)(2), a Marked Up Version Of The Substitute Specification comparing the Specification of record and the Substitute Specification also accompanies this Preliminary Amendment. Approval and entry of the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) is respectfully requested.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE00/02918 includes an International Search Report, dated January 31, 2001. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were uncovered in the underlying PCT Application. A copy of the Search Report accompanies this Preliminary Amendment.

Applicant asserts that the present invention is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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